Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EURE-00 /058 W

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PR 291755Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9566

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SUPREME COURT RULING ON LEGALIZATION CASES MAY NOT BE MADE

PUBLIC UNTIL AFTER EASTER

- 1. ALTHOUGH THE SUPREME COURT REPORTEDLY WILL DECIDE TODAY AND TOMORROW ON THE LEGALIZATION CASES OF A NUMBER OF PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PCE, THERE IS SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHEN THESE DECISIONS ACTUALLY WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.
- 2. BOTH "EL PAIS" AND "ABC" REPORTED TODAY THAT THE RULINGS WOULD BE MADE "BEHIND CLOSED DOORS." "EL PAIS" WENT ON TO STATE FLATLY THAT THEY WOULD NOT THEN BE MADE PUBLIC UNTIL AT LEAST APRIL 11. SO THE WAITING ROOM PACING CONTINUES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. A LEADING CENTRIST POLITICIAN TOLD US TODAY HE WAS SURE THE PCE WOULD BE LEGALIZED, BUT THOUGHT THAT THE DECISION WOULD NOT BE MADE KNOWN UNTIL AFTER EASTER. AS HE PUT IT, THIS KEEPS THE PCE FROM BEGINNING ITS OFFICIAL ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN UNTIL THEN. SINCE THE QUESTION OF THE PCE WAS LINKED TO THE ISSUE OF SUAREZ'S RUNNING, IT

ALSO LEFT SUAREZ WITH MORE TIME TO KEEP HIS OPTIONS OPEN (SEPTEL).

4. ACCORDING TO LATE PRESS REPORTS, THE DECISION COULD NOW BE DELAYED EVEN FURTHER BY THE COURT'S UNPRECEDENTED REFUSAL TODAY TO ACCEPT THE GOVT'S NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE FOURTH CHAMBER, THE SECTION OF THE COURT WHICH IS RULING ON THE PARTY LEGALIZATION CASES. JUSTICES OF THE COURT, INVOKING AN APPARENTLY NEVER USED RIGHT, VOTED 23 TO 18 AGAINST THE NOMINEE, FELLOW JUSTICE JUAN BECERRIL ANTON-MIRALLES. NO EXPLANATION HAS YET BEEN FORTHCOMING FOR THEIR REJECTION OF ONE OF THEIR OWN. EATON

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Message Attributes

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